

This listing of the claims replaces any and all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF THE CLAIMS**

1. (Previously presented) A compound having the formula (I):



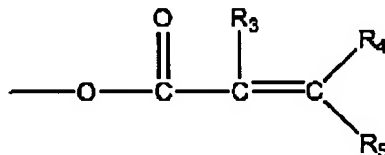
wherein

R<sub>1</sub> is a hydrocarbon radical comprising 1 to 10 main chain carbon atoms, wherein hydrogen atoms bonded to the main chain carbon atoms are independently substituted or not substituted;

R<sub>2</sub> is a hydrocarbon radical comprising 6 to 20 main chain carbon atoms, wherein hydrogen atoms bonded to the main chain carbon atoms are independently substituted or not substituted;

V<sub>1</sub> is a saturated or unsaturated, monocyclic or bicyclic ring system comprising 5 to 9 ring atoms, wherein at least 2 ring atoms are nitrogen atoms, said nitrogen atoms being comprised in the same cycle;

V<sub>2</sub> has the formula (II)



wherein R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, and R<sub>5</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting of H and a C1-C4 alkyl group, wherein each C1-C4 alkyl group is independently substituted or not substituted.

2. (Original) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein the ring system of V<sub>1</sub> is an unsaturated, 5 or 6 membered monocyclic ring system.

3. (Original) The compound according to Claim 2, wherein the unsaturated or aromatic, 5 or 6 membered monocyclic ring system is selected from the group consisting of imidazole, pyrazole, 1,2,4-triazole, tetrazole and pyrazine.

4. (Original) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein the ring system of  $V_1$  is a saturated, 5 or 6 membered monocyclic ring system.

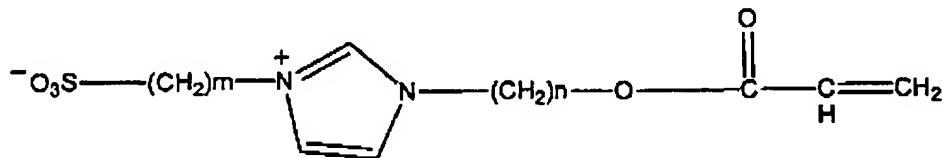
5. (Original) The compound according to Claim 4, wherein the saturated, 5 or 6 membered monocyclic ring system is selected from the group consisting of piperazine and imidazoline.

6. (Original) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein the bicyclic ring system of  $V_1$  is an unsaturated, 9 member bicyclic ring system.

7. (Original) The compounds according to Claim 6, wherein the unsaturated, 9 member bicyclic ring system is selected from the group consisting of benzimidazole, purine and indazole.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) The compound according to Claim 1, having the formula (III):



wherein  $1 \leq m \leq 10$  and  $6 \leq n \leq 20$ .

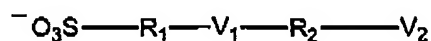
10. (Original) The compound according to Claim 1, having the structural formula (IV):



where  $6 \leq n \leq 20$ ,  $1 \leq m \leq 10$ ,  $X = Na^+, Li^+, NH_4^+$ , and  $V$  is (methyl)acrylate or another copolymerizable unsaturated group.

Claims 11 and 12 are canceled.

13. (Previously presented) An ion conducting membrane comprising a copolymer, wherein said copolymer comprises a monomer having the formula (I):



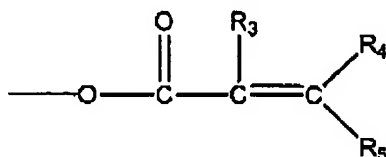
wherein

R<sub>1</sub> is a hydrocarbon radical comprising 1 to 10 main chain carbon atoms, wherein hydrogen atoms bonded to the main chain carbon atoms are independently substituted or not substituted;

R<sub>2</sub> is a hydrocarbon radical comprising 6 to 20 main chain carbon atoms, wherein hydrogen atoms bonded to the main chain carbon atoms are independently substituted or not substituted;

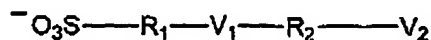
V<sub>1</sub> is a saturated or unsaturated, monocyclic or bicyclic ring system comprising 5 to 9 ring atoms, wherein at least 2 ring atoms are nitrogen atoms, said nitrogen atoms being comprised in the same cycle;

V<sub>2</sub> has the formula (II):



wherein R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, and R<sub>5</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting of H and a C1-C4 alkyl group, wherein each C1-C4 alkyl group is independently substituted or not substituted.

14. (New) A process for the preparation of a compound having the formula (I):



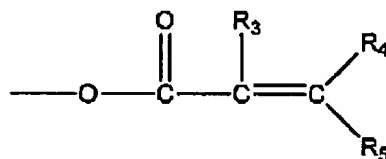
wherein

R<sub>1</sub> is a hydrocarbon radical comprising 1 to 10 main chain carbon atoms, wherein hydrogen atoms bonded to the main chain carbon atoms are independently substituted or not substituted;

R<sub>2</sub> is a hydrocarbon radical comprising 6 to 20 main chain carbon atoms, wherein hydrogen atoms bonded to the main chain carbon atoms are independently substituted or not substituted;

V<sub>1</sub> is a saturated or unsaturated, monocyclic or bicyclic ring system comprising 5 to 9 ring atoms, wherein at least 2 ring atoms are nitrogen atoms, said nitrogen atoms being comprised in the same cycle;

V<sub>2</sub> has the formula (II):



wherein R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, and R<sub>5</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting of H and a C1-C4 alkyl group, wherein each C1-C4 alkyl group is independently substituted or not substituted,

said process comprising:

a) reacting a compound having a saturated or unsaturated, monocyclic or bicyclic ring system comprising 5 to 9 ring atoms, wherein at least 2 ring atoms are nitrogen atoms, said nitrogen atoms being comprised in the same cycle,

with an alcohol having the structure:



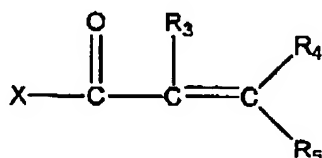
wherein

X' is halogen, and

R<sub>2</sub> is a hydrocarbon radical comprising 6 to 20 main chain carbon atoms, wherein hydrogen atoms bonded to the main chain carbon atoms are independently substituted or not substituted;

b) reacting the product obtained from a) with a sulfone; and

c) reacting the product obtained from b) with a compound having the formula (IIa):



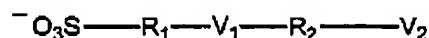
wherein

X is a halogen; and

$R_3$ ,  $R_4$  and  $R_5$  are independently selected from the group consisting of H and a C1-C4 alkyl, wherein each C1-C4 alkyl group is independently substituted or not substituted.

15. (New) A process for producing an ion conducting membrane, comprising copolymerizing at least one copolymerizable surfactant with a copolymerizable monomer in a bicontinuous microemulsion polymerization mixture, said mixture comprising :

- i) about 15% to 50% by weight of water;
- ii) about 10% to 50% by weight of at least one copolymerizable surfactant having the formula (I) :



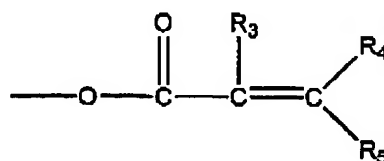
wherein

$R_1$  is a hydrocarbon radical comprising 1 to 10 main chain carbon atoms, wherein hydrogen atoms bonded to the main chain carbon atoms are independently substituted or not substituted;

$R_2$  is a hydrocarbon radical comprising 6 to 20 main chain carbon atoms, wherein hydrogen atoms bonded to the main chain carbon atoms are independently substituted or not substituted;

$V_1$  is a saturated or unsaturated, monocyclic or bicyclic ring system comprising 5 to 9 ring atoms, wherein at least 2 ring atoms are nitrogen atoms, said nitrogen atoms being comprised in the same cycle;

$V_2$  has the formula (II):



wherein  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$ , and  $R_5$  are independently selected from the group consisting of H and a C1-C4 alkyl group, wherein each C1-C4 alkyl group is independently substituted or not substituted,

and

- iii) about 5% to 40% by weight of at least one copolymerizable monomer;
- wherein said weight percents are based on the total weight of the microemulsion.